forces by reducing its numerical strength by about 50,000 and modernising/equipping them with latest sophisticated weapons;

(b) if so, the details of the plan and the cost likely to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Army has planned under posting 50,000 personnel in a phased manner by 31 March, 1999. This will not result in any retrenchment or reduction in combat potential. The savings achieved will be utilised for the modernisation programmes of the Army and for improvement in the quality of life of the troops.

Fundamental Rights of Armed Forces Personnel

756. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Armed Forces personnel have to content with large scale abridgement of their fundamental rights granted to citizens of India under various provisions of the Constitution of India;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) how and to what extent such abridgement of their fundamental rights is compensated?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Armed Forces personnel in Army, Navy and Air Force are governed by Army Act 1950, Navy Act 1957 and Air Force Act 1950 duly approved by the Parliament. Article 33 of the Constitution of India empowers Parliament to modify the fundamental rights in their application to the members of the Armed Forces so as to ensure proper discharge of their duties and the maintenance of discipline among them.

Indian accusations against China

757. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the purpose of Government want to serve by hurling accusations against China when the country is in need of maintaining good relations with the neighbouring country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Government have made no accusations against China but have only expressed India's security concerns. Government is committed to building a friendly, co-operative, good neighbourly, and mutually beneficial relationship with China.

Crash of MIG-21 aircraft at Pathankot

758. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a MIG-21 IAF aircraft recently crashed into the shopping complex in Pathankot district killing some persons;

(b) if so, the details of the inquiry conducted by Government into the MIG-21 crash; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) On 12 May 1998, a MIG-21 IAF aircraft crashed in a locality during take off from Pathankot airfield. In the accident two persons were fatally injured and two were seriously injured.

(b) and (c) A Court of inquiry into the accident has been ordered and is in progress.

Construction of Helipad by China

759. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has constructed a Helipad in Arunachal Pradesh and there are continuous incidents of incursions by Chinese Army personnel as reported in the press;

(b) if so, how many incursions have taken place during the last five years and what steps have been taken to counter them;

(c) whether matters relating to demarcation of actual line of control have been taken up with the visiting Chinese Chief of Army Staff; and

(d) what is the stage of threat perception created by Chinese Army deployed on Indo-China borders and whether this has been reduced as per the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There are no reports of alleged construction of helipads by

the Chinese in Arunachal Pradesh in recent times.

(b) Assessed intrusions by Chinese Army personnel in Arunachal Pradesh in the last five years are as follows:—

(i)	1994	01 time
(ii)	1995	Nil
(iii)	1996	05 times
(iv)	1997	02 times
(v)	1998	Nil

Such issues are discussed at established fora e.g. Border personnel meetings or Expert Group or Joint Working Group meetings or taken up through diplomatic channels, depending on the situation.

(c) The Chief of General Staff, PLA, made a good will visit to India recently. During discussions with him, matters of mutural interest and concern were discussed. It will not be appropriate to disclose details of the discussions in the interest of national security and relations with neighbours.

(d) All developments having bearings on India's security environment are regularly monitored and reviewed. Threat assessment is made having regard to all relevant factors. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose any further details.

Illegal Immigration Racket

760. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the activities of a racket serving as a feeder from the city's Paharganj area for the country's biggest rackets engaged in illegal immigration; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to identify the racket involved in the illegal immigration trade and to book it in accordance with the law?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The Delhi Police have reported that no such racket has come to their notice.

(b) Does not arise.

Repatriation of Infiltrators

761. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of infiltrators entered the country during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and

(c) whether Government have made any plan to repatriate them to their country of origin?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) There have been reports that nationals of some of the neighbouring countries managed to enter illegally into the territory of India. These include people from Bangladesh, Myanmar, Tibet, Sri Lanka etc. It is difficult to speak in terms of any precise numbers, because such illegal infiltrators enter India surreptitiously and mix with the local population due to their ethnic, linguistic similarities. Detection and deportation of illegal infiltrators from this country is a continuous process. There are standing instructions to all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrators to deport illegal migrants as and when detected. The State Government and UT Administrations are being periodically reminded in this regard.

Bangladesh Migrants

762. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of illegal migrants from Bangladesh now staying in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of such migrants detected and deported so far, State-wise;

(c) the steps initiated for prevention of such migration;

(d) whether Government have decided to prepare a list of citizens in the country and to provide identity card to them; and